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Harry Loy Anderson Jr., youngest bank president, dies at 70

'Happy Harry Loy' led the Worth Avenue National Bank at 26.

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H. Loy and Inger Anderson

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H. Loy Anderson Jr.

By Shannon Donnelly <http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/staff/shannon-donnelly/> and David Rogers

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Daily News Society Editor

Harry Loy Anderson Jr., a longtime Palm Beach resident who became the youngest bank president in the country at the age of 26, died Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013 at his home in Palm Beach County. He was 70.

Born July 13, 1943 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of H. Loy and Therese (Arcenaux) Anderson.

When he was 5 years old, Mr. Anderson's father, a banker, gave him his first piggy bank. Eighteen years later, the coins collected by that piggy bank — \$11,000 — became the down payment on his first home, located on Seaview Ave.

Mr. Anderson's first job was as a paperboy in Washington, D.C. "I got a lot of change doing that," he said in an interview in 2000, but even from a young age "I always wanted to be a banker," he said.

He was still a child when his family moved to Palm Beach, where Peter Pulitzer was one of his close friends.

Pulitzer said Harry Loy, as his friends called him, was "a wonderful guy ... full of life. He loved his kids and he loved his family."

The duo would travel often to the Bahamas for diving and fishing.

"He loved the outdoors," said Pulitzer, whose nickname for his friend was 'Happy Harry Loy' because he was always in an upbeat mood. "That's why I loved him so."

Mr. Anderson attended Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va., and earned a bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University. He also attended the Harvard School of Business.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who was president of First Federal Savings & Loan, at the time Palm Beach County's largest financial institution, he entered the banking business. In 1970, at age 26, he assumed the presidency of Worth Avenue National Bank and became the youngest bank president in the nation. Although primarily a banker, his long business career included turns as a restaurateur, a citrus grower and a developer. He was a leader in several business organizations, including the Young Presidents Organization Inc., the Banker's Association, the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, the Kiwanis Club and the Worth Avenue Association, for which he served as chairman.

It was at Washington & Lee that he met Bill David, his friend of more than 50 years.

"We became friends our first day as freshmen and he remained a real, true friend," said David, who served with the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam. "Especially when I came home from a very unpopular war, and I was broken mentally and physically — sick from Agent Orange, although I didn't know it yet. Loy said, 'Come to Palm Beach for a few months' and moved me into his guest apartment. You can't imagine what a kindness that was for a returning Vietnam vet. I've never had a better friend in my life, and I've been blessed with some good friends. Loy loved unconditionally. He was there when I was up, when I was down, and was tough on me when he needed to be. I can't believe he's gone. I will miss him so, so much."

Mr. Anderson had a lifelong dedication to charitable causes, among them the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, where he served as a board member; Palm Beach Atlantic University, where he was a member of the advisory board of the Rinker School of Business; the Hanley-Hazelden Foundation; the Holocaust Memorial Museum; the YMCA; Ben-Gurion University; the United Way; Rosarian Academy; the Leukemia Foundation; the JCC of Palm Beach; and the Boy Scouts of America.

It was to the American Red Cross, however, that he was especially dedicated, serving on the national board of governors, as chairman of the chapter board, on the national finance committee, the local planned giving committee and as a founder of the Palm Beach chapter's Young Friends group in the 1970s.

"His energy and passion as a board member, and as board chairman from 1979-1983, were vital," said Rob Levine, regional CEO of the American Red Cross. "The Red Cross enjoyed a period of rapid growth and success in Palm Beach County with his leadership."

He was a founder of the Academy of the Palm Beaches, now known as Palm Beach Day Academy.

Bill Meyer of Palm Beach remembered Mr. Anderson, whom he has known for 30 years, as "the most wonderful friend a person could ever have. There was nothing that he would not do for a friend. He was the most fun person to be around, absolutely the life of the party. He made everybody feel included. He took great joy in life and brought everybody along with him."

Mr. Anderson was the recipient of numerous honors, including the State of Israel Peace Medal, the American Red Cross Harriman Award for Distinguished Service and the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev award for service to Israel. In addition to his wife Inger, he is survived by four daughters, Mea Stone, Bebe McCranels, Bettina Anderson and Kristina McPherson; two sons, H. Loy III and Kent; three sons-in-law, Roman Stone, Dr. Scott McCranels and Brad McPherson; two grandsons, Christian Miles and Hampton McPherson; and a granddaughter, Camilla McCranels. Services will take place at 11 a.m. Monday at First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach.

Instead of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Red Cross of Palm Beach County, 825 Fern St., West Palm Beach 33401; Alzheimer's Community Care, 800 Northpoint Parkway Suite 101-B, West Palm Beach 33407; Alzheimer's Association, 3333 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach 33406; or to Hospice of Palm Beach County, 5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach 33407.

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- See more at: <http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/news/harry-loy-anderson-jr-youngest-bank-president-dies/ncGNr/#sthash.WWd9epMp.dpuf>